



August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Rockwoods Reservation



Making Tracks

July 2000

Volume 00, Number 07

WANTED: VOLUNTEER NATURALISTS!

by Janice Starke, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Chances are you're interested in Missouri and its fish, forest and wildlife or you wouldn't be reading *Making Tracks*. Would you like to learn more about the natural world and at the same time help us to promote a greater understanding of Missouri's resources and their conservation? Consider becoming a Volunteer Naturalist for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The Busch Conservation Area, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, and Rockwoods Reservation are looking for folks who are interested in becoming Volunteer Naturalists. Beginning this August, the three sites will work together to present the introductory training course for Volunteer Naturalists. This eight-session course will be held during the months of August and September.

The purpose of the course is to prepare trainees for the diverse job duties of the Volunteer Naturalist. If you have visited any of the

Department's interpretive sites in the state, you probably have already met some Volunteer Naturalists. Their training enables them to perform a wide range of jobs. They present and assist with conservation education programs and walks. They answer visitor questions at the reception desk, sell gift shop items, monitor trails, and much more.

The training course will include the "big picture" — the Conservation Department: its policies, procedures, and organization. Trainees will tour Busch, Rockwoods, and Powder Valley. They will learn techniques to present programs and lead walks. Training will also include information on jobs unique to each site, such as staffing the reception desk and selling gift shop items.

Please try to attend the open house at the site where you would like to volunteer. No registration is required. We look forward to seeing you!

YOU'RE INVITED!

If you are 18 years or older and would like to learn more about volunteering, you're invited to attend one of the following open houses:

Thursday, July 13

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Powder Valley Nature Center

For more information,
call Janice Starke

(314) 301-1500 ext. 2229

Sunday, July 16

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Busch Conservation Area

For more information,
call Nancy Snider

(636) 441-4554 ext. 244

Sunday, July 16

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Rockwoods Reservation

For more information,
call Tom Meister

(636) 458-2236

These mammals may live up to 25 years in captivity and 15 years in the wild. They occur in every county in Missouri and live in primarily timbered areas. They have no permanent structure for a home.



What Is It?

News from Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

RESIDENT ARTISAN: Rock Painting with Lin Wellford

SATURDAY, JULY 8

10:00 a.m. Slide show for rock painting basics
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Demonstration (in lobby)
1:30 p.m. Slide show for rock painting basics
2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Rock painting workshop

SUNDAY, JULY 9

11:00 a.m. Slide show for rock painting basics
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Demonstration (in lobby)
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Rock painting workshop

(Participants must be at least 5 years old and see one of the slide shows to attend a workshop.)

We are pleased to welcome back, for a third time, the nationally renowned artist and author Lin Wellford. Lin will share with us the wonderful world of rock painting.

"Painting on an object that already has a shape is like taking a shortcut to great results," Wellford says. "A flat piece of paper or canvas can be pretty intimidating, but there's something friendly about a rock. Also, there's no foreground or background to worry about, and since you're already working in three dimensions, perspective isn't a problem either. I've had many people tell me that rock painting has opened up a whole new world of creativity for them."

Join us July 8 and 9 to enter this new creative world. Lin will discuss how to select the right rock and how to bring that rock to life. She will offer slide shows for beginners in our auditorium, and for those hands-on people, afternoon workshops are available. In between slide shows, Lin will give a demonstration in our lobby, answer questions, and sign her books.

The Powder Valley Gift Shop has Lin Wellford's books for sale: *The Art of Painting Animals on Rocks*, *Painting More Animals on Rocks* and *Painting Flowers on Rocks*. Also, the first ever rock painting video, "Painting Animals with Lin Wellford," will be for sale beginning in June. Look for *Painting Houses, Cottages and Towns on Rocks* at your local bookstore. Her fifth book, *Painting Pets on Rocks*, will be available later this year.

For those Lin Wellford fans or people who just want to know more about rock painting, visit www.linwellford.com.

--Leslie Drewel, *Naturalist*

11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 301 - 1500

LOCATION: From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

AREA HOURS:

Daylight Savings Time:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central
Standard Time: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NATURE CENTER

HOURS: Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.

Gempp Now Open – Take a Hike!

by Tamie Yegge, Nature Center Manager

The Claire Gempp Davidson Memorial Conservation Area at 9227 Sappington Road is now open! A lease agreement between the Missouri Department of Conservation and the City of Sunset Hills has allowed this 13.5 acre passive nature park to open to the public. A grand opening ceremony was held May 6 at the area, and a tree was planted in dedication to the "new life" of the site.

The acreage was willed to MDC in 1992 upon the death of Marjorie Elizabeth Gempp in the name of her sister, Claire. The land had once been part of a dairy farm operation. The family occupied a large, beautiful home on the site until the 1970s. The house had to be removed by MDC because it was laden with asbestos and heavily damaged by water, fire, and vandals.

MDC did not have the staff or funding to develop the area, but in 1998, was able to enter into an agreement with the City of Sunset Hills to lease the land as a passive nature park. This agreement, the first of its kind for MDC, has allowed both organizations to fulfill their

missions. The city has promised more parks for its citizens, and MDC is able to protect this area for the benefit of its natural resources.

The park operates under a five-person commission, appointees of the Mayor of the City. Representatives from MDC and the City Parks Department serve as advisors to the committee. Currently, a five-year plan to develop and manage the natural resource areas of the park is being constructed.

The park is open from dawn until dusk, every day of the year. There is a 1/2-mile loop nature trail which transverses the area from the parking lot. Due to its history, you will find a large number of nonnative species, such as bush honeysuckle, yucca, English ivy, holly, and daffodils on the area. Part of the plan will be restoring some native vegetation at the site. A small wetland area and a warm season grass prairie will also be developed. Students from the Lindbergh School District are assisting with much of the work on site. The school district has a separate agreement with the city to utilize the area for studies and service learning. So go on, take a hike!



News from Rockwoods Reservation

Insects That Sting



by Tom Meister,
Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Being stung by an insect is a painful and memorable event. We learn at an early age to recognize and avoid insects that sting. Anyone who spends time outdoors will be exposed to these insects.

What most people do not realize is that bees and wasps are not the only insects that can sting or bite. There are two orders of insects whose sting or bite can inflict pain. In the Order *Hymenoptera* are stinging insects like hornets, wasps, honey bees, ants, and yellow jackets. In the second Order *Hemiptera*, certain insects inflict a stinging sensation to the skin with their mouth parts. These insects include the assassin bug, ambush bug, and the wheel bug. Unless a person is highly allergic to stings, these merely cause pain, but that passes with time.

Only the female of stinging insects has a stinger. The stinger is a modified ovipositor, a knife-shaped device used for cutting slits in leaf material or wood to lay eggs. Many insects in the *Hymenoptera* Order have stingers, but never bother humans. They use them only for egg laying or stinging other insects.

Most stinging insects use plant material to feed and to build their nests. Many also use other insects for food to feed their young or to lay their eggs inside or

This mammal usually spends the day in concealing cover and rarely moves about, but toward evening it comes out to feed and drink.



Walking

What Is It?



on the body surface. Because many of the stinging insects spend their lives in galls or paper cells in the soil, we seldom observe them. Some have a short egg stage and a long larval stage, but spend a very short time as an adult.



Since stinging insects are predators, they rely upon other insects for their development and food, which is beneficial to humans. Many of the insects which are preyed upon are harmful or damaging to crops. One stinging insect might use 1,000 other insects during its life as food or as a place to develop from egg through the larval stage. It is difficult to put a dollar figure on them, but it is estimated that these insects save us millions of dollars a year.

Please visit Rockwoods during the month of July to learn more about these fascinating and beneficial animals. There will be a special exhibit in the classroom, as well as a special program.



2751 Glencoe Road
Wildwood, MO 63038
(636) 458 - 2236

LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy 109; left (south) on Highway 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Manchester Road, take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

AREA HOURS: Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

VISITOR CENTER HOURS:

Open seven days a week all year, except holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public including:

- Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
- 1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
- Two picnic areas (one with charcoal grills) with drinking water, tables, and toilets.
- Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.
- A crawl cave and a pond.
- Evidence of old mining operations.

How to register for a

JULY

Program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. Groups may inquire for separate programs. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program. Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advanced notice.

ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

5 Cool Down!

Wednesday 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
and 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

(Ages 8 - 14) Join us as we investigate what lives in our "cool" spring. We will collect spring creatures to take a closer look and learn more about them. Please wear clothes you can get dirty.

(Reservations begin June 26.)

21 Ouch! That Stings!

Friday 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
and 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) It is an important skill in the summer to know who can sting you and where they live. We will investigate our winged friends in a one-hour study that will take us on an outdoor excursion.

(Reservations begin July 10.)



25 Toddling Into Nature - Buzz, Buzz, Bees!

Tuesday 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
and 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) Join us as we investigate our friends that buzz around in the summer - the bees! We will be indoors and outdoors for this study. We will make a "bee craft" for you to take home.

(Reservations begin July 17.)



WEDNESDAYS OUTDOOR SKILLS

Join a naturalist each Wednesday to learn a different outdoor skill. All programs are outdoors, so dress for the weather.

12 Cooking on a Stick

Wednesday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
and 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

(Ages 8 - 14) Learn how to cook delicious meals over a campfire! We will taste our vegetarian delicacies after learning how to prepare and cook them. All food and equipment will be provided.

(Reservations begin July 3.)



19 Spelunking

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

(Ages 8 - 14) Join us as we explore the Rockwoods Crawl Cave. We will discuss the formation of caves, cave ecosystems, and equipment required to go spelunking. Please wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts that can get muddy.

(Reservations begin July 10.)



26 Camping Preparation

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 8 - 14) Are you planning to camp this summer or do you want to learn what to do when you go camping? Then you don't want to miss this program! We will discuss the best way to set up your campsite and the necessary equipment needed to make your trip a safe and fun one.

(Reservations begin July 17.)

BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554
Unless otherwise specified,
all programs are one hour in length.

6, 13, & 27 Wildflower Hikes

Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

(Families) Take a summer evening hike to look for wildflowers and enjoy the outdoors. The trails are not suitable for strollers. (Reservations begin June 22, June 29, and July 6 respectively.)



7 & 10 Stream Life

Friday and Monday 10:00 a.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) Come and learn what lives in a Missouri stream. We will wade in and search for wildlife. Please wear shoes for wading and bring a towel. Meet at the St. Louis Regional Office. (Reservations begin June 23 and June 26 respectively.)

12 Butterflies

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) What is a butterfly? What does it need to live? How does it grow? Find answers to these questions and more when you investigate this important insect.

(Reservations begin June 28.)



13 Turtles

Thursday 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) What is a turtle? Come and explore these fascinating reptiles. We will learn about them and then take a hike to the lake to see some.

(Reservations begin June 29.)

23 Opossums Discovery Table

Sunday 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn about these mysterious mammals at our discovery table. (No reservations are required.)

25 Papermaking

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) Where does paper come from? How do you make it? Come and discover! Participants will make their own paper. (Reservations begin July 11.)

29 Herons & Egrets

Saturday 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

(Adults) We will learn about the herons and egrets that use the marsh around Marais Temps Clair as their feeding grounds. This program will include a 2½-mile hike to view the birds of the marsh. Please bring binoculars. (Reservations begin July 14.)



30 Potpourri Discovery Table

Sunday 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

(All Ages) Come and join us at this discovery table. (No reservations required.)

POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500
Please limit requests to two programs per month,
with only one to include an Age 3 - 6 program.

3 Hike on Hickory Ridge Trail

Monday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

(Adults) We will walk Hickory Ridge Trail to see what birds, wildflowers, and trees may be there. (Reservations begin June 19.)

14 Night Hike at Emmy

Friday 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up) There's almost a full moon! Enjoy it at Emmenegger. We'll meet at the new bridge.

(Reservations begin June 30.)



15 Identification of Common Trees

Saturday 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

(Adults) We will walk about a mile and identify our common trees.

(Reservations begin July 3.)

17 Hike on Broken Ridge Trail

Monday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

(Adults) We will walk Broken Ridge Trail to see what birds, wildflowers, and trees may be there. (Reservations begin July 3.)

22 Identification of Common Trees

Saturday 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

(Adults) We will walk about a mile and identify our common trees.

(Reservations begin July 10.)

29 Owls

Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

(Ages 6 - 12) Owls are fascinating animals with exceptional hunting abilities. Come take a look at owls, the hunters of the night. You'll even dissect an owl pellet to see what it had for dinner.

(Reservations begin July 17.)



RESIDENT ARTISAN:

ROCK PAINTING
with LIN WELLFORD
July 8 and 9



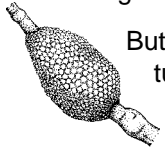
See page 2 for details.

News from
August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area

**HARBINGER OF SPRING:
EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR**

by Charlotte Schneider,
Management Forester

The white webbing in branch crotches of trees (cherries, crab apples, and other ornamentals) and defoliation of the leaves are clues of what is coming. However, many homeowners are not alarmed until the 1-to-1½ inch long caterpillars are crawling everywhere – driveways, houses – looking for a place to hang a cocoon in order to turn into a moth. Short of stepping on them or feeding them to fish, there is little you can do at this stage.



But you have the summer, fall, and winter to get rid of their eggs. The caterpillars turn into a rather nondescript moth. The moths mate and lay eggs, which are very recognizable. You will find them wrapped around branch tips on the trees they intend to feed on next spring. The egg masses are black, shiny, and pockmarked. In Missouri, the egg mass seems to be more long and thin.

Follow correct pruning standards when pruning twigs to remove egg masses, or gently scrape them off. If you have questions about pruning techniques or the eastern tent caterpillar, please contact Charlotte Schneider, Certified Arborist, at (314) 301-1500 ext. 2237.



POISON IVY

Just the mention of poison ivy strikes fear in the hearts of many. But don't let this plant keep you from enjoying the outdoors.

Poison ivy grows just about anywhere, including wet or dry woods, fields, fencerows, and gravel bars. It comes in many shapes and sizes, but usually is a vine or low shrub. The plant has three leaflets. The middle leaflet has a longer stem than the other two.

Contact with the oil found in all parts of the poison ivy plant can cause an itchy rash. However, you don't always have to touch the plant to contact the oil and develop the allergic reaction. The oil can stick to garden tools, boots, clothing, and dog or cat fur. It is also carried in the smoke of burning poison ivy.

If you think you've gotten into poison ivy, wash with cold water and soap as soon as possible. You may still develop an itchy rash, but it may not be as severe.

In spite of its bad reputation, the poison ivy plant has redeeming value as important wildlife food. Deer browse on the leaves and its fruits are a real treat for animals such as grouse, quail, wood ducks, squirrels, and many songbirds.



Nature Notes



BAT ECHOLOCATION

Some people consider bats to be ugly creatures with beady eyes, oversized ears, and warty noses. In reality, bats are gentle, intelligent mammals that are superbly adapted for an extraordinary lifestyle.

Bats use their own echoes to locate food. Bats also use their echoes to navigate in flight. Apart from the audible sounds bats produce, they emit high-pitched sounds beyond the range of human hearing. These sounds bounce off objects to produce faint echoes from their surroundings. This process, known as echolocation, provides information about what an object is, how fast it is moving, what direction it's traveling, and other facts for navigation and hunting in the dark. Bats are not blind. However, they can visualize their environment better with their ears than with their eyes. They can even navigate through intricate cave passageways.

All the bats in our area eat insects and are active at night. They can eat as many as 600 mosquitoes, moths, and other insects in one hour.

There is a reason for the enormous ears and strange-looking facial features of some bats. They serve as tools to help bats navigate and hunt more efficiently.



**2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441 - 4554**

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles.

From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy 94 to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles.

The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS: Area is open from

6 a.m. until 10 p.m. April 1 through September 30. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours

are 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. April 1 through September 30. Rental boats are

available April 1 through

September 30. Office is

open Monday through

Friday from 8 a.m. until

5 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA: 6,987

acres with 32 lakes and 40

ponds totaling 526 acres of

water for fishing. There are

six viewing blinds (two are

wheelchair accessible),

seven hiking trails totaling 5

miles, picnic area, staffed

firearms range, and fishing

jetties (some are wheelchair

accessible). The area has

interpretive programs,

exhibits, demonstration

sites, and is used by

bicyclists.

The gender of this mammal cannot be determined by its track, because there is no constant difference between the size and shape of male and female hoofs.



What Is It?

Local News & Events

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET:
www.conservation.state.mo.us

Natural Events in July

- * Bird song has subsided; birds are busy raising young.
- * Young raccoons leave dens.
- * Dragonflies lay eggs on ponds and streams.
- * Fall webworms begin web building.
- * Cicada-killer wasps prey on dog-day cicadas.
- * Rattlesnakes hunt mostly at night.
- * Squirrels bear summer litters.
- * Warblers begin to gain weight for energy during migration.



Wildflowers in Bloom

- * Rose pink
- * Blazing star
- * Wild bergamot
- * Common milkweed
- * Royal catchfly
- * Prairie rose
- * Black-eyed Susan



Black-eyed Susan

CONSERVATION EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

FOR TEACHERS AND YOUTH LEADERS ONLY
 For more information, call (314) 301-1500 ext. 0



ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS AND BEHAVIOR

July 10 - 12 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

St. Louis Zoo

Credit: One hour graduate, Lindenwood University

CONSERVATION PROJECTS: WET, WILD, AND LEARNING TREE

August 1 - 3 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Busch Conservation Area

Credit: One hour graduate, Lindenwood University

SHOW-ME CLASSROOMS

September 25 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Rockwoods Reservation

Credit: None

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM SEMINAR

September 26 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Teacher Resource Center - Souldard Office

Credit: None

BUSCH RANGE

Hours for July 2000:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday - Monday

10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

For more information, call (636) 441 - 4554 ext. 251



HENGES RANGE

Hours for July 2000:

2:00 - 8:00 p.m. Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday - Sunday

Closed Monday, Tuesday, Special Events & Holidays

For more information, call (636) 938 - 9548

Answer to "What Is It?"

White-Tailed Deer
(Odocoileus virginianus)



Quick and easy St. Louis Urban Fishing Program fish stocking information is at your fingertips 24 hours a day, seven day a week!!

Fish Stocking Hotline

(636) 441-8014



Certified Arborist Training: Problem Diagnosis and Management

Tuesday, July 11

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Powder Valley Nature Center

This class offers two-hour training on how to recognize the insects and diseases that plague our trees. Time will also be invested in identifying and correcting other factors that impact trees, such as weather and people.

Homeowners are welcome. For reservations, call Charlotte Schneider at (314) 301-1500 ext. 2237.

Volunteer

Milestones

**THANK
YOU**

**FOR ALL YOUR
EFFORT AND HELP!**

Busch Conservation Area

Karen Hencel.....1,500 hours
Rhonda Husack.....400 hours
Fred Immen.....200 hours
Margaret McGregor.....200 hours
Jeanie Moe.....200 hours
Dot Niemeyer.....1,500 hours
Alice Ortner.....500 hours
George Pryor.....1,600 hours
Doug Robb.....400 hours
Mary Smith.....1,500 hours
Marv Staloch.....1,000 hours

Powder Valley Nature Center

Tom Bayer.....100 hours
Janyce Beyer.....2,700 hours
Alma Dulz.....2,000 hours
Etta May Eagle.....2,100 hours
Joan Hummel.....2,500 hours
Jack McGinnis.....3,100 hours
Jayne Parsons.....900 hours
Ron Pohle.....200 hours
Frank Sadorf.....500 hours
Marjorie Yamada...1,200 hours

Rockwoods Reservation

Mary Demmitt.....300 hours
Amber Edwards.....300 hours
Karen Kelly.....2,500 hours
Glenda Myers.....1,000 hours
John Schroeder.....500 hours
Jim Westbury.....1,700 hours
Meg Wilson.....150 hours

Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation

11715 Cragwood Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122



PRSR STD.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
MO DEPT OF CONSERVATION